

Senate Bill 207

By: Senator Thompson of the 5th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to sale of petroleum products, so as to require the establishment by the
3 Department of Agriculture of an Internet website for gasoline prices; to require that gasoline
4 dealers post prices for gasoline on such website within certain periods of time; to provide for
5 penalties for failing to post such prices and posting incorrect prices; to provide for certain
6 required features of such website; to provide for the establishment of a toll-free number to
7 obtain such information; to provide for enforcement by the Department of Agriculture; to
8 provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal
9 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to sale of petroleum products, is amended by adding a new Code Section 10-1-170
14 to read as follows:

15 "10-1-170.

16 (a) The Department of Agriculture shall establish an Internet website for the purpose of
17 posting the price of gasoline charged by the gasoline dealers in this state. Such website
18 shall display the price charged for gasoline by each gasoline dealer at each location in this
19 state at which gasoline is offered for retail sale for each grade of gasoline offered for sale.
20 Such website shall be designed in a manner that a person using such website may search
21 for gasoline dealers by ZIP Code as well as other such criteria as may be determined by the
22 Department of Agriculture to make such website useful for the public.

23 (b) Each gasoline dealer in this state shall, within two hours of a change in price in the
24 gasoline offered for retail sale by such dealer, update or cause to be updated such
25 information on the website established under subsection (a) of this Code section.

(c) Each gasoline dealer who fails to post or to update timely the prices for gasoline offered for retail sale by such dealer or who posts incorrect prices for such gasoline shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 for each violation. The provisions of this subsection shall be enforced by the Department of Agriculture.

(d) Any gasoline dealer who intentionally or knowingly posts incorrect prices for gasoline offered for retail sale by such dealer with the intent to deceive the public shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

(e) Any person who, without authorization, tampers with such website, posts prices on such website, or in any manner interferes with such website shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

(f) The Department of Agriculture shall also establish a toll-free telephone number by which members of the public may obtain the information contained on such website.

(g) The Department of Agriculture shall be authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to implement the provisions of this Code section."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.